

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00376 01 OF 02 151735Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 PC-01

OMB-01 /075 W

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R 151602Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8659

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 0376

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, PINR, EC

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF SUPREME COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENT

REF: QUITO 266

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE THREE MEMBERS  
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, NAVY ADMIRAL ALFREDO  
POVEDA BURBANO, ARMY GENERAL GUILLERMO DURAN ARCENTALES, AND  
AIR FORCE GENERAL LUIS LEORO FRANCO.

2. VICE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA BURBANO, COMMANDING GENERAL  
OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENT. BORN JANUARY 24, 1926, IN AMBATO, ECUADOR.  
A CAREER NAVY MAN, POVEDA ATTENDED THE ECUADOREAN NAVAL  
ACADEMY AND GRADUATED FROM THE ARGENTINE NAVAL ACADEMY IN  
1950. HE HAS ALSO STUDIED, REPORTEDLY FOR THREE YEARS, AT  
THE BRAZILIAN NAVAL WAR COLLEGE. HIS WIFE IS ARGENTINE BY  
BIRTH, NOW A NATURALIZED ECUADOREAN. POVEDA SPEAKS  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 00376 01 OF 02 151735Z

FLUENT PORTUGUESE AND SOME ENGLISH, BUT PREFERS HIS NATIVE

SPANISH. HE HAS SERVED AS COMMANDER OF A SHIP (BAE "EL ORO"), INSTRUCTOR AT THE ECUADOREAN NAVY ACADEMY AND DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL, DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAL ARSENAL (ONE OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISES), CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST NAVAL ZONE (GUAYAQUIL, DITTO FOR NAVY HEADQUARTERS IN QUITO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY, DIRECTOR OF THE ECUADOREAN MERCHANT MARINE, AND COMMANDER OF THE FIRST NAVAL ZONE (GUAYAQUIL). AMONG HIS MORE RECENT EXPERIENCES, HE WAS NAVY ATTACHE (CONCURRENTLY) IN BONN, LONDON, MADRID, AND PARIS; MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (1973-75); COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY (1975-76) AND CHIEF OF THE JOINT COMMAND OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES (SAME PERIOD). HE TOOK SOME EARLY TRAINING IN THE US, AND HAS SAID (SINCE BECOMING NAVY COMMANDER) THAT HE WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH SENIOR US NAVY OFFICIALS. SUCH A VISIT WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER OF 1975, BUT POSTPONED INDEFINITELY BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTABILITY FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1975.

2. COMMENT: POVEDA IS WIDELY REGARDED AS THE MOST CAPABLE AND MOST INTELLIGENT OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL. HE HAS BEEN THE MOST OUTSPOKEN SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER IN ADVOCATING REBUILDING ECUADOR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US WHICH WAS SO BADLY DAMAGED DURING THE "TUNA WAR" OF 1971-73, AND HAS BEEN A KEY ALLY WITHIN THE GOE TRYING TO AVOID SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. POVEDA HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE RESULTS OF HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US; HE CLEARLY MOST WANTS TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A LIMITED NUMBER OF SHIPS WHICH WOULD GET HIS NAVY AFLOAT AGAIN, AND FOR POLITICAL REASONS (ON THE HILL), WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBLIGE. HE LENT A FIRM HAND TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED WHILE HE WAS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE RECURRING RUMORS THAT HE PROTECTED CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM WHO WERE SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION OR COMPLICITY IN SAME. POVEDA IS PROBABLY THE MOST PRO-AMERICAN OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, BUT FOR PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL REASONS; THAT IS TO SAY, HE REALIZES THAT ECUADOR NEEDS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BOTH

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PAGE 03 QUITO 00376 01 OF 02 151735Z

FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL HELP. THOUGH NATIONALISTIC, HE IS RECEPTIVE TO BOTH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IF THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD HELPING ECUADOR IS NEGATIVE, HE WILL PROBABLY BE FORCED TO REAPPRAISE HIS STANCE BOTH BY THE OTHER SERVICES AS WELL AS BY SUBORDINATE OFFICERS WITHIN THE NAVY. HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS, AND AVAILABLE AND RECEPTIVE TO OUR APPROACHES WITHIN

THE SUPREME COUNCIL, HIS CORDIAL DISLIKE FOR AND DISTRUST OF DURAN COULD EASILY BE A HIGHLY DESTABILIZING FACTOR, WHICH WILL BE COMPOUNDED BY THE NAVY'S WEAKNESS AND COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT ITS BASE IS IN GUAYAQUIL, REMOTE FROM THE QUITO MOUNTAIN TOPS WHICH ARE GUARDED BY DURAN'S ARMY. END COMMENT.

4. BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS GUILLERMO DURAN ARCENTALES, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY AND MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT. BORN NOVEMBER 2, 1923, IN QUITO, ECUADOR. EDUCATED AT THE COLEGIO SAN GABRIEL IN QUITO; GRADUATED FROM THE ELOY ALFARO MILITARY ACADEMY (ECUADOR'S WEST POINT) IN 1947. DURAN HAS ALSO STUDIED AT THE US ARMY'S SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS, IN PANAMA, AND ATTENDED THE COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE THERE IN 1965. HE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY, INCLUDING IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS TO THE US. HE SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH, IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIVE SPANISH. IN 1967 HE WAS GUEST INSTRUCTOR AT THE US ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED ON THE (ECUADOREAN) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, MILITARY GOVERNOR OF AZUAY PROVINCE AND COMMANDER OF THE THIRD MILITARY ZONE; SUBSEQUENTLY AS COMMANDER OF THE SECOND MILITARY ZONE (GUAYAQUIL AREA), MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00376 02 OF 02 151745Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01

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R 151602Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CIA WASHDC

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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 0376

(1973-75), MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (1975), AND COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY (AFTER THE ABORTIVE SEPT 1, 1975 COUP).

5. COMMENT: DRUAN APPARENTLY REACHED THE TOP THROUGH A COMBINATION OF DRIVE, SHREWDNESS, AND LOYALTY TO THE MAN (WHOEVER IT MIGHT BE AT THE TIME) WHO WROTE HIS EFFICIENCY REPORTS. HE IS NOT THOUGHT OF BY EITHER HIS COLLEAGUES (WHICH IS TO SAY "RIVALS") OR POLITICALLY-MINDED ECUADOREANS GENERALLY AS INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED, AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SOME AS AN ARROGANT, DOMINEERING MAN WHO IS HARSH WITH SUBORDINATES. MANY ECUADOREANS WERE APPALLED WHEN HE WAS NAMED MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND LATER MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (THE NUMBER 2 CABINET POSITION, AFTER THE PRESIDENT). HE HAS OFTEN CAST ASPERSIONS ON CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE BELIEVED THE ARMY SHOULD HOLD POWER FOR FROM TEN TO TWENTY YEARS IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THE INFLUENCE OF THE OLIGARCHY (INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE INFLUENCE OF THE GUAYAQUIL COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL OLIGARCHY). DURAN IS WITHOUT QUESTION A "HARD-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 QUITO 00376 02 OF 02 151745Z

LINER" ON DISCIPLINE AND WILL PROBABLY BE A PROPONENT OF SEVERE SANCTIONS AGAINST TROUBLE-MAKERS, BE THEY STUDENTS, UNION LEADERS WHO PROVOKE STRIKES, THE NEWS MEDIA, POLITICIANS, OR EVEN POSSIBLY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HE WAS EARLIER BELIEVED TO BE POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE, QUITE FRIENDLY TOWARD THE US, AND RECEPTIVE TO OUR OVERTURES, BUT WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD REPORTS OF HIS FLIRTATION WITH KNOWN LEFTISTS. ONE EXPLANATION OF THESE STORIES BY PEOPLE FRIENDLY TO THE US AND CLOSE TO HIM IS THAT THEY WERE STARTED BY HIS RIVALS IN THE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES TO REPLACE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA. WHETHER THE LEFT HAS BEEN CULTIVATING HIM, OR HE SOLICITED ITS SUPPORT; WHETHER HE HAS CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US, OR HAS MERELY ADOPTED A MORE NATIONALISTIC APPROACH TO ECUADOREAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IS NOT KNOWN. ON JAN 14 IN A MEETING WITH DIRECTORS OF NEWS MEDIA INSTITUTIONS, AND IN OBVIOUS RESPONSE TO A CHARGE MADE PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT BY FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION GENERAL GUSTAVO VASCONEZ THAT DURAN WAS A COMMUNIST, DURAN DENIED THAT HE WAS A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER. HE SAID HIS CATHOLIC RELIGION DID NOT PERMIT HIS ADHERENCE TO ANY FORM OF EXTREMISM. DURAN IS WIDELY THOUGHT OF AS AN OPPORTUNIST. IN ADDITION, DURAN IS KNOWN NOT TO BE VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD POVEDA, A FACT WHICH COULD

EXACERBATE INTRA-SUPREME COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS. POVEDA MAY BE PRIMUS AMONGST THE PARES, BUT DURAN PRESIDES OVER THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE THREE SERVICES. ON THE OTHER HAND, DURAN EVOKES STRONG PASSIONS WITHIN THE ARMY, WHICH IS BY NO MEANS UNIFIED IN ITS SUPPORT OF HIS LEADERSHIP. END COMMENT.

6. BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS ANIBAL LEORO FRANCO, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE, MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT. BORN JANUARY 11, 1934, IN IBARRA, ECUADOR. EDUCATED IN IBARRA, GRADUATED FROM THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN 1953. LEORO IS A PILOT; HIS MAIN PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS INCLUDE JET FIGHTER PILOT, SQUADRON LEADER, AND BASE COMMANDER. HE HAS TRAVELLED TO THE US, CANAL ZONE, BRAZIL, AND EUROPE, AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HE HAS BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF CONSIDERABLE MILITARY TRAINING IN THE U.S.; PILOT TRAINING IN 1955, 1956, ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING IN 1960 AND ATTENDED THE USAF'S COMMAND AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 QUITO 00376 02 OF 02 151745Z

STAFF COURSE IN 1969. MORE RECENTLY, HE HAS BEEN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF ECUATORIANA (THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE), ACTING CHIEF OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE GENERAL STAFF, AIR ATTACHE IN LIMA, AND, FOLLOWING THE PLANE CRASH WHICH KILLED AIR FORCE COMMANDER MOREJON LAST APRIL, WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE. LEORO'S BROTHER, GALO LEORO FRANCO, IS ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS.

7. COMMENT: LEORO IS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE THE LIGHT-WEIGHT OF THE PRESENT TROIKA, IN PART BECAUSE HE IS YOUNGER, LESS WELL-KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC, AND HAS HELD FEWER SENIOR POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT, AND IN PART BECAUSE THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE IS THE WEAKEST OF THE THREE ARMED SERVICES. ALTHOUGH LEORO'S IMAGE HAS BEEN PRIMARILY THAT OF A PILOT, HE HAS HAD SOME ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE, SERVING AS A BASE COMMANDER AND MORE RECENTLY AS HEAD OF ECUATORIANA AND COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE. THE EMBASSY'S MILITARY OFFICERS REGARD HIM AS VERY AMBITIOUS, AND POINT OUT THAT HE GOT THE JOB AS AIR FORCE COMMANDER OVER AT LEAST TWO MORE SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICERS WHO HAD GREATER CLAIM TO IT THAN HE. LONG THOUGHT OF AS DECISIVE, INTELLIGENT, AND A FIGHTER FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED WAS RIGHT, HE HAS ALSO BEEN OCCASIONALLY DESCRIBED AS BRUSQUE AND OVERBEARING. WE KNOW OF NO PARTICULAR POLITICAL ATTITUDES OF HIS. EARLIER IN HIS CAREER HE WAS DESCRIBED AS STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN, AN ATTITUDE WHICH NOW SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT MAY BE A PERSONAL THING, RATHER THAN PROFESSIONAL OR IDEOLOGICAL. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE ARE GOOD, AND THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE HAS PURCHASED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING A SQUADRON OF A-37'S, AND IS NEGOTIATING FOR C-130'S AND POSSIBLY

T-34C(S) AND TRAINING FROM US. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED  
THAT WITH UNCERTAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN POVEDA AND DURAN,  
LEORO COULD EASILY BE A "SWING VOTE" IN CRUCIAL MOMENTS WHICH WOULD

TIP THE BALANCE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. END COMMENT.  
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